

## Q & A on the Budget's Hot Topics

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### Agriculture

Why does the President's budget cut funding for rural development programs such as the Rural Community Advancement Program and Rural Cooperative Grants?

- The President's budget discontinues \$220 million in one-time emergency funding. In addition, due to anticipated reductions in loan interest rates less money is needed to fund the same loan levels as FY 2001. Finally, the Business and Industry direct loan program is not funded because it has not proven to be effective and has a high rate of loan defaults.

### Education

Why does the President's budget eliminate the school renovation grants program?

- Repairing and modernizing schools is fundamentally a state and local responsibility. In fact, creating a federal grant program could actually be detrimental. Localities may actually defer funding for school repairs on the false hope that federal funds could become available. The funds from this program are redirected to support the President's elementary and secondary reforms and to increase special education funding.

How does the President's budget provide for such a large increase in Education when the overall growth of spending for the government is held to 4 percent?

- The President believes that just throwing more money at education does not fix education. Increased funding must be accompanied by reforms that ensure the education system operates in the most efficient manner. To that end, the President consolidates programs with similar missions, reduces programs that are redundant, and ends unrequested projects and one-time initiatives with missions that have been completed. These reforms mean existing dollars are being wasted less and spent more efficiently. For example:

- The budget consolidates programs including class size reductions (\$1.6 billion) \ and the Eisenhower professional development state grant (\$485 million) into a new \$2.6 billion teacher quality state grants initiative.

- Ten technology programs are consolidated into an \$817 million education technology state grant.

- Teacher quality enhancement grants, which duplicate the teacher quality state grant program, is reduced from \$98 million in 2001 to \$54 million in 2002. The budget removes \$433 million in unrequested projects and one-time initiatives.

### Health and Human Services

Why does the President's budget cut funding to programs that train and recruit health professionals?

- Many of the grants created more than 40 years ago address health profession shortages that are no longer an issue. The President is committed to focusing on the most critical health workforce issues. To that end, the President's budget strengthens the National Health Service Corp to encourage more health professionals to relocate to the most under-served rural and urban communities. The President also retains the Health Professions program and focuses it on the most pressing issues, including nursing shortages and increasing representation of minority health professionals.

Why does the president cut the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding?

- The President's budget actually provides \$200 million for Children's Hospital GME which is 400 percent above the 2000 level.

### Today in History

**1204** - The Fourth Crusade sacked Constantinople.

**1606** - England adopted the Union Jack as its flag.

**1861** - Fort Sumter was shelled by Confederacy, starting America's Civil War.

**1864** - Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest captured Fort Pillow, in Tennessee and slaughters the black Union troops there.

**1945** - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt died in Warm Spring, GA. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 63. Harry S. Truman became president.

**1988** - Sonny Bono was elected Mayor of Palm Springs, CA.

**1989** - In the U.S.S.R, ration cards were issued for the first time since World War II. The ration was prompted by a sugar shortage.

**2000** - Israel's High Court ordered the release of eight Lebanese detainees that had been held for years without a trial.

*From The History of Today*

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## Q & A on the Budget's Hot Topics cont.

### Why does the President's budget cut funding for the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) chronic disease activities?

The President's budget ends a \$125 million, one-time youth media campaign as well as \$27 million in other one-time projects. Chronic disease funding is still funded at \$44 million above FY 2000 levels.

### **Housing and Urban Development**

#### Why does the President cut funding to fight drugs in public housing?

The President consolidates and streamlines anti-drug activities in public housing. Specifically, the public housing associations can use money from the Public Housing Operating Fund program, the Capital Fund program, and the Drug Elimination Grant program for anti-drug efforts.

### **Justice**

#### Why does the President's budget cut funding for the COPS program?

The President's budget does not block the programs original goal of putting 100,000 more police on the street. In fact, the COPS program has already funded 115,000 police officers, although only 40,000 of those are actually on the street. The President's budget also allows for the hiring of additional police officers for public schools.

### **Labor**

#### Why does the President's budget cut job training programs under the Department of Labor?

The President's budget uses unexpended funds to maintain current services, especially those for dislocated workers, adult training, and youth activities.

### **Army Corp of Engineers**

#### Why does the President's budget cut the Army Corp of Engineers, including a \$369 million dollar reduction in on-going construction?

The overall level for construction is comparable to the level provided in FY 2000. The President saves \$31 million for studies for projects which have little likelihood of moving into the construction phase within the near future. The President also saves \$153 million by reducing low-priority operations and maintenance activities.

### **Veterans**

#### Why does the President's budget cut grants for construction of extended care facilities by \$50 million?

Total discretionary spending on veterans initiatives increases by \$1 billion in FY 2002. The President's request for \$50 million for nursing homes represents his on going commitment to nursing home care through less expensive state and community programs.

### **EPA**

#### Why does the President's budget cut the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget?

Most of the savings comes from reducing earmarks in last year's appropriations bills - most of which are unauthorized, of primarily local concern, or funded outside the regular process for determining priorities.

### **Weekly Quote**

"There's nothing wrong with the younger generation that becoming taxpayers won't cure."

- Dan Bennett

### **By the Numbers**

#### **Rosie O'Donnell's online gun control poll results**

I'm for gun control. - 3%

I think everyone has a right to own a gun with no restrictions. - 79%

I think it's okay to own a gun, provided the owner is licensed to carry a weapon. - 3%

I think it's okay to own a gun, provided there are background checks at the time of sale. - 14%

The site doesn't say how many people have participated in the poll but the percentages are probably giving Rosie heartburn.

You can take the poll at the link below:

<http://www.rosiemagazine.com/causes/index.jsp>

## Comments from the District

"As a registered Democrat, I would 100% support action against Gov. Davis and support a petition to impeach." - **Susan Whitacre** - 3/26/01

"If we can map a human gene, we should be able to recycle nuclear waste to something useful." - **Jim Eilering** - 3/27/01

"Consumers in California should be given tax breaks on installing self-sufficient energy systems." - **Alexandra Toledo** - 3/27/01

"It appears the state government has been and still is in the hands of amateurs." - **George A. Malloy** - 3/27/01

"It is the desire of legislators to pander to the environmental lobby." - **Edward Finucane** - 3/27/01

"How are utility rates computed? I am only home 8-10 hours a day." - **Philip Ciralsky** - 3/27/01

"Gov. Davis just put bandaids on the issue." - **Gerry McDonald** - 3/27/01

"I feel helpless...as I conserve, the price goes up." - **Anonymous** - 3/27/01

"A discount should be given to the customers who are trying to conserve. Stand beside us in this struggle to hold on to that extra dollar." - **Patricia Joan Herdeg** - 3/27/01

"Gray Davis and Ca. legislature bought votes." - **Bill Bragg** - 3/27/01

"The state government thinks all of us taxpayers are idiots." - **Robert Leslie Overy** - 3/27/01

"It's sure funny...every time there is supposedly a shortage of energy be it gasoline, natural gas or electricity, we bail them out through price hikes and those companies post record profits." - **Donald Kent** - 3/27/01

"Tired of environmentalist restrictions in Ca." - **Christine Dwyer Langdon** - 3/27/01

"Bush needs to step in." - **Matthew C. McDermott** - 3/27/01

"Hoover dam was engineered during a Republican Administration." - **Chuck Nobriga** - 3/27/01

"The cost of everything is going up except our wages." - **Bob Ashe-Everest** - 3/26/01

"Davis has mislead us all." - **Mary Hammond** - 3/26/01

"Is someone going to give me a 40% pay increase to cover the 40% power increase that the PUC approved? Where do they think I'm going to get that kind of money? Out of my butt!" - **Alex Webster** - 3/26/01

"The governor, state legislature and PUC all failed Economics 101." - **Dave Schafer** - 3/26/01

"Tanning beds do not run without electricity. Maybe I should find a source to buy my own power. At least I would be smart enough to buy it in advance." - **Angela Grace Orlandella** - 3/26/01

"If one had obligated to supply a service or product, efforts would be made to access the market base for growth." - **Linda Bousquet** - 3/26/01

"Put someone in charge who actually knows what's going on." - **Gina DelCarlo** - 3/26/01

"Who would have thought the new millennium would see us moving backward." - **David Tonner** - 3/26/01

"Wake up Californians. Gov. Davis is seeking another office." - **Rita Stolp** - 3/26/01

"Power companies are not charity organizations." - **Lecia Liege** - 3/26/01

"If our power is shut off, our well goes out and we can't irrigate the pasture to feed our cows." - **Karen Jones** - 3/26/01

"We can't conserve much more unless we turn to candle power." - **Dianna Sellers** - 3/26/01

"I don't understand all this electricity shortage stuff." - **Debra Kasinger** - 3/26/01

"A summer of darkness." - **Clifton Crabtree** - 3/26/01

*You can view more comments on Congressman Richard Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link below:*

<http://www.house.gov/pombo/board2001/board2001.htm>